



# US Forest Service

## El Yunque National Forest

### Camping Information and Guidelines

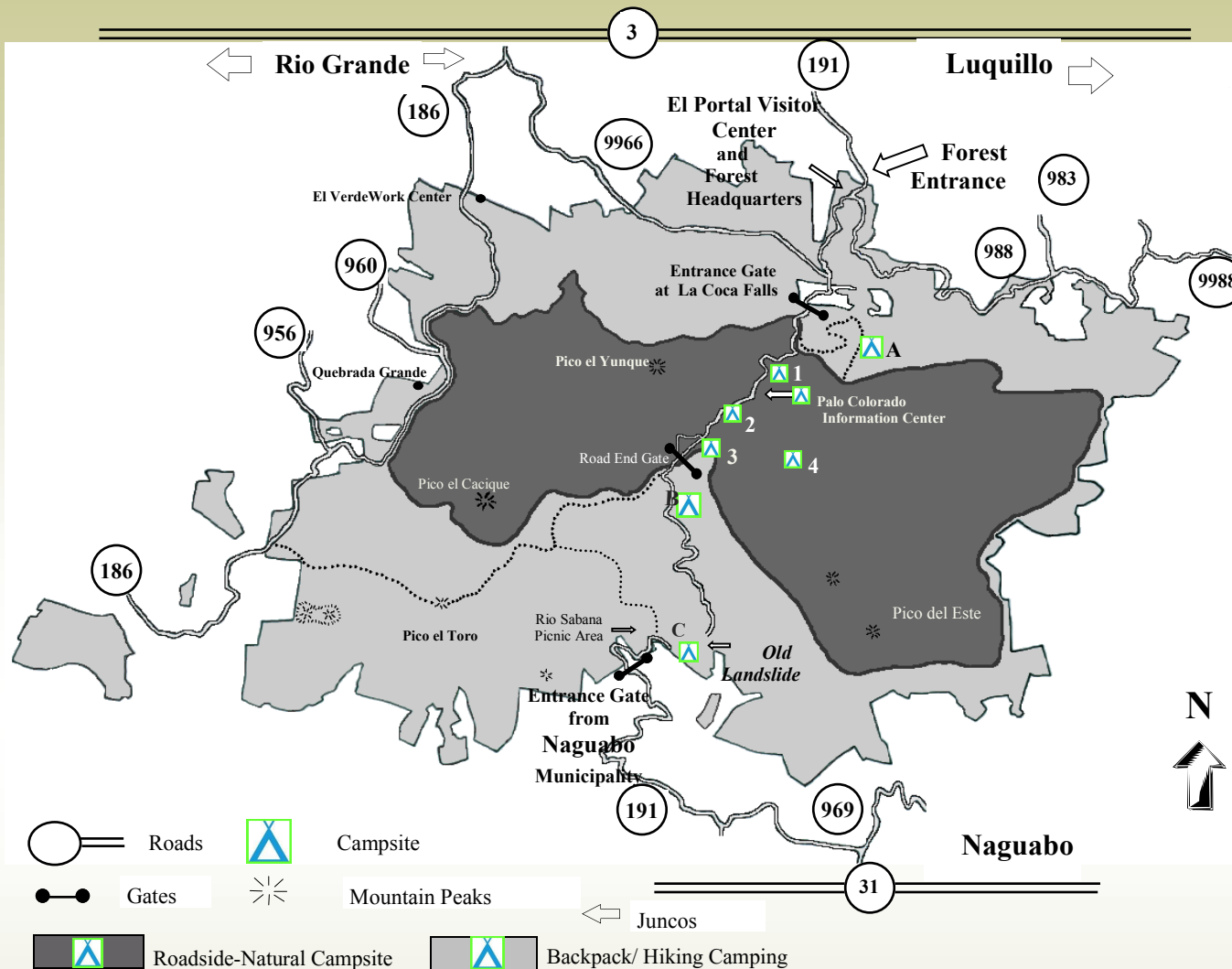


#### Camping Permit Information

[www.fs.usda.gov/elyunque](http://www.fs.usda.gov/elyunque)  
or El Portal Rain Forest Center  
Road PR191 km 4.0 Palmer, P.R.

787 888-1880

Revised 2/2014



El Yunque offers primitive camping. **THERE ARE NO** toilet facilities, treated water, picnic tables or shelters in any of the camping areas. \*Please check for site availability and for closures with authorizing officials: [cmanfred@fs.fed.us](mailto:cmanfred@fs.fed.us) and [vuevas@fs.fed.us](mailto:vuevas@fs.fed.us)

#### Roadside-Natural Campsites

1. El Pabellón - Rd 191 km.11.4
2. Dos Quebradas - Rd 191 km 11.9
3. Los Pilotes - Rd 191 km 12.6
4. Molindero-Rd 930 at East Peak Gate

#### Backpack and Hiking Camping

- A. La Coca Trail -191km.8.5
- B. 191 Landslide Road from N entrance gate at km 13
- C. 191 Landslide Road from S in Naguabo Municipality

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# STAY SAFE. ENJOY. BE AWARE OF WEATHER AND OTHER NATURAL CONDITIONS.

## Camping Guidelines

- Camp only at the designated campsite location indicated on your approved permit.
- Length of stay is limited to 14 days. Group sizes are limited to 8 persons or less.
- Open campfires are not allowed. Build fires only in fire rings or grills. Use of camp stoves is permitted.



- Cutting of trees, palm fronds, shrubs, branches or other vegetation is **Not Ok.**
- To improve insulation from the cool mud, use a plastic sheet under the tent.
- Use of hammocks is discouraged as it can destroy rare plants and epiphytes on trees and branches.
- Avoid walking off the trails to protect trailside plants and other organisms. Travel in small groups.
- Avoid loud noises so as not to disturb wildlife and other Forest visitors.
- Be mindful of arboreal, terrestrial and aquatic wildlife.
- Encounters with mosquitoes are rare. Avoid using lotions and insect repellents that introduce chemicals into the environment.
- Do all washing 100 ft. away from water sources by using a bucket or wash pan.
- Do not dispose of human waste in streams. Bury feces using the cathole method: Dig a shallow hole (6 to 8 inches deep) 100 ft. away from streams, or at a reasonable distance from campsite or trail and cover waste with soil. Urine should be kept away from streams, campsites and trails.
- If you packed it in, please pack it out and take trash off the Forest!

- Always practice Leave No Trace.
  - ⇒ Plan ahead and prepare.
  - ⇒ Dispose of waste properly.
  - ⇒ Travel & camp on durable surfaces.
  - ⇒ Minimize campfire impacts.
  - ⇒ Respect wildlife and vegetation.
  - ⇒ Be considerate of other visitors/campers.



## Safety Alerts

- Be aware of potential flash floods in or near rivers and streams.
- Always be aware of current weather conditions, alerts and warnings especially June 1-Nov 30 during hurricane season .
- Mongooses are the principal carrier of rabies in Puerto Rico, avoid all contact with them. If bitten by a mongoose or any feral mammal (cat, dog) get medical attention immediately.
- Be cautious when brushing against plants as some may cause skin irritations.
- Out of four snake species, only the Racer has a toxic bite that may warrant medical attention.
- Insects and creepy crawlies that produce painful stings are: bees, wasps, centipedes, scorpions, tarantulas and hairy caterpillars.
- Mosquitoes are uncommon.
- Boots and rain gear are recommended.
- Camping alone is not advisable or safe.
- Have a plan of activities and share it with Forest Service camping official as requested in the permit.
- There is limited cellular phone coverage inside the Forest.
- See the Weather Link: <http://www.srh.weather.gov/sju/>
- **In Case of an Emergency Dial 911**



## Requesting a Camping Permit

- Please read this flyer thru as you will need to comply with it's contents.
- An approved permit is required to camp in the Forest and must be solicited 10 business days prior to the camping date. There is no fee required.
- To be valid the permit must have an assigned # and the signature of an authorizing official .
- Please submit completed permit to [cmanfred@fs.fed.us](mailto:cmanfred@fs.fed.us) and [vuevas@fs.fed.us](mailto:vuevas@fs.fed.us) who will notify you of approval.
- The validated permit is picked up at the Reception desk of El Portal Visitor Center Rd 191 km 4.0, 9:30 am.-3:30 pm.
- Please place folded permit on your vehicle's dashboard showing the Camping Permit # only.

**Camping Season** We offer permitted camping year round but camping closures will occur during hurricanes and other storm events. **Night Time Closure** At 6:00 PM the gate closes at La Coca Falls km 8.2. Rd. 191 and reopens at 7:30 AM. You will not be able to exit the Forest by vehicle during this time.

**The Natural Setting** El Yunque National Forest is a mountain wetland so be prepared for a muddy and possibly rainy experience. Night temperatures remain in the 70's to low 60's F. Topography is steep and uneven and the soils are water logged. Mossy surfaces create slippery conditions and also conceal various tiny life forms on the ground, the trunks and branches. Occasional heavy rains will cause flash floods and landslides. The dense vegetation helps birds, lizards and other forest fauna camouflage even when near you. The leaf litter houses many organisms. Stream rocks conceal shrimp and other aquatic fauna. The boa constrictor is the largest animal while the hawks are the top predators. Nocturnal activity includes among others: screech owls, bats, boas, rats, a great variety of insects, geckos, coqui frogs, river crabs and shrimp. This ecosystem is very delicate, special and easily altered; please minimize your effect on it as much as possible. Enjoy!